

Amendments to the Specification:

Please replace the first paragraph on page 1 with the following amended paragraph:

This application claims priority from the following provisional applications: application: Serial No. 60/296,978, filed 06/08/01. Copending application Serial No. 09/ / /, filed / / /, 10/033,135, filed 12/28/2001, now USP 6,603,412, discloses related subject matter. These applications have a common assignee.

Please replace the Abstract of the Disclosure paragraph with the following amended paragraph:

MAP decoder with cascade architecture. Iterative Turbo decoders can use two such cascade MAP decoders with feedback in conjunction with interleaver and deinterleaver where the MAP decoders generate extrinsic information for iterations. The cascade architecture limits the required number of max* blocks which compute the logarithm of a sum of exponentials as part of the BCJR method.